

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2, 16, and 24-25 are canceled; claims 1, 3-4, 15, and 17-18 are amended, and new claims 30-33 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-15, 17-23, and 26-33 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 10 of the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-8, 15, 21-22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu in view of Strait. In paragraph 11, the Examiner objected to claims 2-6, 9-14, 16-20, and 23-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 12, the Examiner allowed claims 26-29. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 2. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 3-14 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 16. As such, currently amended claim 15 is equivalent to previously pending claim 16 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 15 is allowable. Since claims 17-24 depend variously from claim 15, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

New claim 30 is equivalent to previously pending claim 9 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 30 is allowable. Since new claim 31 depends from claim 30, it is further submitted that claim 31 is also allowable. Support for new claim 31 is found in previously presented claim 10.

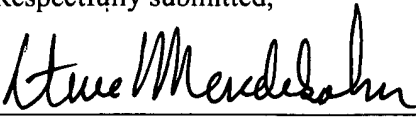
New claim 32 is equivalent to previously pending claim 23 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 32 is allowable. Since new claim 33 depends from claim 32, it is further submitted that claim 33 is also allowable. Support for new claim 33 is found in previously presented claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the rejections of claims under Section 103(a) have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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